

PROPOSAL PAPER

Independent Technical Panel on Demand Management Measures Final Report on California Landscape Water Use 10-27-15 Draft

Section #: 7

Section Title: Complimentary Policies and Regulations

Recommendation #1B: Product Standards for Irrigation Equipment

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Background:

It is common knowledge in the landscape industry that the most common overhead popup spray type sprinkler bodies sold are not efficient with regards to pressure regulation and the ability to prevent low head drainage. This is a source of documented water waste in many landscape installations and can lead to misting and run off. These types of inefficient sprinkler bodies are primarily sold because of a lack of knowledge and lower price point.

Thousands of pop-up sprinkler bodies are sold in the State of California each year. However, the large majority of these products lack basic water conservation efficiencies that built in pressure regulators and low head drainage check valves provide. Documented studies have proven that millions of gallons of water have been lost through product misting due to lack of pressure regulation and through irrigation run off due to lack of check valves. These inefficient pop-up sprinkler bodies are primarily installed in landscapes due to basic lack of knowledge of more efficient products.

To reference a similar product, toilets manufactured to operate at 3.8 gallons per flush were identified as water wasters. More efficient toilets were offered on the market but were not widely accepted due in large part by lack of knowledge and past preferences. Although the low flow toilets operated just as effectively as the high flow toilets while using less water, it took a State mandate to prohibit the sales of high flow toilets to change the status quo and achieve water conservation.

Recommendation Purpose Statement:

Beginning in January of 2017, all popup sprinkler bodies sold in California shall include both a built in check valve and be pressure regulating. This removes any 'lack of knowledge' excuse by the consumer from purchasing an inefficient pop-up sprinkler body while ensuring the conservation of millions of gallons of landscape irrigation water.

Statutory Recommendation:

The California State Legislature shall pass a law that requires all popup type sprinkler bodies sold in the State to have built in pressure regulation and built in operational check valves effective January 2017.